

FAITHFUL GIVING



Opportunities for Giving



Dear Family and Friends of St. Mark's,



Since 1979 St. Mark's Episcopal School has established a rich legacy of educating outstanding students in academics, athletics, and fine arts. Today St. Mark's is at a very exciting place in its history. Close to celebrating our first thirty years, we are embarking on our next phase of development. The school's continued success depends on our respect for our legacy and our commitment to evolve. Our strategic plan, updated in the 2007-08 school year, is a clear blueprint for growth and future success. This plan will take us to the year 2013 with well defined goals, strategies, and initiatives.

Through this publication, you will gain insight into *Faithful Giving*— investing in educational excellence – through the contribution of time, skills, and financial resources in support of our *Opportunities for Giving*. These opportunities for giving provide an effective way for our loyal community to support the work of the school.

As you think of ways to invest in a child's education, consider that contributions to each of these areas are important not only for the dollars raised or time served, but also for the level of participation achieved. A high level of participation is a show of loyalty and belief in our programs, and it sends a strong message to others who may consider investing in the St. Mark's educational experience.

All gifts given to St. Mark's are some of the many blessings that enable us to continue to build a future for generations to come. Working together to build a community of philanthropy, we can continue to strengthen our tradition of academic excellence and developing students that exemplify our focus that a St. Mark's education "shapes sound foundations for life."

With warm regards,

Kay A. Carnes
Head of School

The Value of St. Mark's Episcopal School

- A dedicated faculty that cares about children and learning.
- Small class sizes that enable teachers to know their students' strengths and weaknesses.
- A safe, nurturing environment free of disciplinary problems.
- An extensive field trip program that enhances the curriculum.
- A curriculum that provides academic challenge.
- A worshipping community where love of God and love of neighbor are valued and shared.
- A community that encourages the development of a positive self-image.
- A community where there is concern for the whole child.
- A community where honesty, integrity, loyalty, courage, compassion, and justice are considered valuable concepts and are both modeled and taught.
- A community where students, parents, and staff members enter into a partnership for learning.

SHAPING SOUND FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

Building a Community of Philanthropy



Thank you for your interest in supporting St. Mark's Episcopal School. St. Mark's Episcopal School depends on philanthropic support to sustain and advance our mission of *providing an academically enriched program in a nurturing Christian environment*. The generosity of our faithful community of supporters — school families, grandparents, parents of alumni, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends — is integral to supporting our students and enriching their academic experiences, improving our academic programs and curriculum, and enhancing or expanding our educational facilities.

St. Mark's appreciates the many individuals who are truly committed to providing excellence in education. St. Mark's has established the following *Opportunities for Giving* to meet the individual needs of our donors for their contributions of time, skills, and financial resources:

- Annual Fund
- Capital Gifts
- Endowment Fund
- Fundraisers
- Planned Gifts
- Volunteers

Working together, we can take an active role in fostering the school's mission and ensuring the best possible educational environment for our students and faculty at St. Mark's. Together, we can continue to strengthen our tradition of academic excellence and developing students that exemplify our focus that a St. Mark's education "shapes sound foundations for life."



ANNUAL FUND

EVERY GIFT STRENGTHENS

Contributions to the Annual Fund provide the school with essential, generally unrestricted funds that can be directed toward the greatest need. Giving to the Annual Fund plays a financial role, and it is also a way of showing loyalty to the school. Strong parent and community support is vital to our success.

The Annual Fund provides many benefits to our students and faculty, and these gifts may support:

- Improving educational, fine arts, and athletic programs and curriculum
- Strengthening of extracurricular programs
- Enriching the learning experience through state-of-the-art technology solutions
- Supporting teachers' professional development
- Keeping tuition at a competitive rate
- Enhancing or expanding our educational facilities and programs

The Annual Fund is a yearly opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation of cash or securities to St. Mark's Episcopal School. It runs annually throughout the school's fiscal year of July 1 through June 30. Contributions made by December 31 are eligible for current tax-year benefits. All gifts to the Annual Fund are 100% tax-deductible based on the school's 501 (c)(3) status.



AND PRESERVES THE VALUE OF A ST. MARK'S EDUCATION.



St. Mark's Strives for Strong Participation

Strong participation is a show of loyalty, and it is a sign that our community of supporters are willing to invest in the St. Mark's educational experience and faculty excellence. As a highly respected school in the local private school community, St. Mark's strives for strong participation. A high participation rate is an indicator of satisfaction, improves how we are viewed against other top rated schools, and is a key point in securing foundation grants and other sources of outside funding for the school.

Annual Fund Categories of Giving

Titanium	\$10,000+
Platinum	\$5,000
Gold	\$2,500
Silver	\$1,000
Bronze	\$500
Lion	\$250
Blue & White	\$150
Friend	Up to \$149

Every gift, no matter how large or small, is essential to preserving and strengthening the value of a St. Mark's education. Collectively, gifts of all sizes make a difference.



ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund ensures the long term sustainability of St. Mark's Episcopal School for many years to come. The goal of the fund is to encourage stewardship and to enhance the mission of the School by providing an orderly method for receiving and administering gifts. The funds will be invested to assure income, growth, and security of the principal as directed by the School Advisory Board. Giving to the endowment supports the long range mission of the school and provides long-term financial stability.

Endowments are perpetual and are established by donors who wish to ensure that their gift will add value to St. Mark's today and for years to come. Since gifts to the endowment are not spent, only the income from the investment is spent, these gifts will generate an additional income for St. Mark's every year in perpetuity. Endowment gifts benefit present students as well as those of future generations.



PLANNED GIFTS



Planned or deferred giving offers donors a role in supporting the school's future and provides options for leaving a legacy at St. Mark's School. By designating St. Mark's in a will, life insurance policy, or retirement plan, these gifts not only benefit St. Mark's School, but also help individuals and families fulfill their financial and philanthropic goals. Planned gifts can often provide financial benefits to the donor, which may include the following:

- Provide a substantial income tax charitable deduction
- Avoid capital gains tax on the transfer of appreciated assets
- Eliminate or reduce estate taxes
- Provide income for the donor and/or another beneficiary

There are many ways to make planned gifts to St. Mark's School, which may include:

Estate Gifts

- Bequest in Will or Living Trust
- Retirement Plan Gift
- Life Insurance Gift

Lifetime Gifts

- Outright Gift of Appreciated Property
- Real Estate Gift
- Outright Gift of Cash
- Retained Life Estate

Partnership Gifts

- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Charitable Remainder Unitrust

Planned giving provides a wonderful way to support the ongoing work of the school and may provide significant tax and income advantages. Financial advisors can help identify attractive philanthropic options and identify the assets that are most commonly used to fund a planned gift.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Throughout its history, St. Mark's Episcopal School has built a strong foundation for academic excellence and has had a proven record for steady growth and fiscal responsibility. St. Mark's engages in thorough strategic planning and identifies important needs to support the school's programs and growth. Implementation of significant advancements in the program and facilities require the investment and loyalty of the school's many friends through participation in a capital campaign.

Capital campaigns are conducted periodically to provide significant funds for growth, such as construction and renovation of facilities, purchasing significant equipment, and other special purposes. Commitments to capital giving vary according to the financial means of the donor, and pledged gifts are typically paid over a one to five year period of time.



FUNDRAISERS: GIVING *St. Mark's Parents' Association*

The Parents' Association sponsors a variety of fundraisers throughout the school year. This organization plans programs and events, organizes volunteers, solicits community support for gift donations and underwriting, and hosts social events.

The Auction, one of St. Mark's preeminent social events, is traditionally one of the School's largest fundraisers. This event has been highly successful in the past, thanks to the participation and financial support of the parents and friends of St. Mark's School. This event features a silent and live auction, dinner, and dance. Other social events may include: a benefactor dinner, golf tournament, fashion show, or a family outing.

The Parents' Association sponsored fundraisers provide many benefits to the students and faculty, and donated gifts may support:

- Improving educational, fine arts, and athletic programs and curriculum
- Strengthening of our extracurricular programs
- Enriching the learning experience through state-of-the-art technology solutions
- Supporting teachers' professional development
- Keeping tuition at a competitive rate
- Enhancing or expanding our educational facilities and programs

The categories of giving are:

Titanium	\$10,000+
Platinum	\$5,000
Gold	\$2,500
Silver	\$1,000
Bronze	\$500
Lion	\$250
Blue & White	\$150
Friend	Up to \$149

All members of the school community are asked to support the school. It is through the combined efforts of many that allow St. Mark's to deliver the best possible educational experience.



VOLUNTEERS: GETTING INVOLVED

St. Mark's Parents' Association



The St. Mark's Parents' Association is a vital part of the school community. The Parents' Association is organized to promote, support and enhance the mission of the school. The Parents' Association sponsors programs and fundraising events, and provides opportunities for parent involvement. All parents and legal guardians of students at St. Mark's School are automatically members of the Parents' Association.

Active Volunteer Participation

St. Mark's depends on active volunteer participation in the daily life of the school. It has a very active Parents' Association that provides many services to the school. Parents volunteer in the classroom; serve as room parents; plan, coordinate, and staff events; and sponsor several fundraising events during the school year. The Parents' Association supports on-campus assemblies that enhance the school curriculum. To build community and provide parent education, the Parents' Association holds monthly meetings and sponsors coffees throughout the year. The school calendar, web site, and newsletters keep the St. Mark's community informed about the many ways to get involved.



Ways to Give to St. Mark's Episcopal School

Gifts of time, talent, and financial resources touch every student at St. Mark's Episcopal School. Every gift, whatever the amount, is appreciated and makes a difference in the life of the school. Our students depend on support to maintain vast educational resources and the highest caliber faculty.

Ways of giving include cash, check, appreciated securities, and corporate matching gifts.

Cash or Check

For many people, writing a check is the most convenient and secure way to give. Checks should be made payable to St. Mark's Episcopal School and sent to the following address:

St. Mark's Episcopal School
3395 Burns Road
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Appreciated Securities

Gifts of appreciated securities have beneficial tax implications. St. Mark's welcomes gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.

Corporate Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor Matching Gift programs for employees, retirees and their families and will match charitable contributions. The impact of gifts to the school may be doubled by requesting a matching gift from employers. Many employers will also match volunteer time with a matching financial gift. Contact the human resource department for information and the appropriate forms.





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